The ABS will be closed from 12.00pm, 24 December 2025 and will reopen at 9.00am, 2 January 2026. During this time there will be no statistical releases and our support functions will be unavailable. The ABS wishes you a safe and happy Christmas.

Unemployment rate remains at 4.3%

Media Release

Released 11/12/2025

Source: Labour Force, Australia, November 2025

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was steady at 4.3 per cent in November, according to data released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Sean Crick, ABS head of labour statistics, said: 'The unemployment rate has remained at 4.3 per cent in five of the last six months.

'Both the number of unemployed and employed people fell in November, by 2,000 and by 21,000 respectively.'

Full-time employment fell by 57,000 people, with males falling by 40,000 and females by 16,000 people.

Part-time employment partly offset the fall in full-time employment, rising by 35,000. Females working part-time increased 29,000 people, whilst males rose 6,000 people in November.

'With the fall in the number of employed and unemployed people in November, the participation rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 66.7 per cent,' Mr Crick said.

'The number of employed people has risen 1.3 per cent over the past 12 months, which is weaker than the 2.0 per cent growth in population.'

The employment-to-population ratio fell by 0.2 percentage points to 63.8 per cent this month.

Hours worked remained flat this month, and increased 1.2 per cent compared to November 2024.

Underemployment and underutilisation both rose 0.4 percentage points

The underemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage points to 6.2 per cent in November. This was 0.1 percentage points higher than November 2024, and 2.6 percentage points lower than March 2020.

'In original terms, the number of underemployed people who worked part-time, but would prefer more hours, rose 5.9 per cent over the last year. This was led by males which grew 17.0 per cent, whereas females recorded a small fall of 1.7 per cent,' Mr Crick said.

The underutilisation rate, which combines the unemployment and underemployment rates, rose by 0.4 percentage points to 10.5 per cent. This was 0.5 percentage points higher than November 2024, and 3.4 percentage points lower than March 2020.

Trend unemployment rate dropped to 4.3 per cent in November

'The trend unemployment rate fell marginally to 4.3 per cent in November after staying at 4.4 per cent for the last two months,' Mr Crick said.

'Trend employment grew by around 21,000 people, or 0.1 per cent, in November, and 1.3 per cent in the last 12 months. This is despite a fall in seasonally adjusted terms this month.

'Monthly hours worked rose 0.1 per cent, in line with the 0.1 per cent increase in employment.

'Annual growth in hours worked in November was at 1.1 per cent, which is slightly lower than the 1.3 per cent rise in employment in the last 12 months.'

In trend terms, the participation rate stayed at 66.8 per cent in November, while the employment-to-population ratio stayed at 63.9 per cent.

The underemployment rate remained at 5.9 per cent, and the underutilisation rate was steady at 10.3 per cent.

More information, including regional labour market data, will be available in the upcoming November 2025 issue of Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, on Thursday 18 December 2025.

We thank everyone who participated in and supported this survey.

Media notes

- The November survey reference period is from 26 October 2025 to 8 November 2025.
- The December survey reference period is from 23 November 2025 to 6 December 2025.
- The ABS defines population as the resident civilian population aged 15 years and over when reporting labour force statistics.
- Numbers may not be additive due to rounding.
- Watch our data literacy presentation on CPI, inflation and cost of living data (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-sGkfqqI70) as well as our ABS data crash course (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le2K3PNejU4&list=PLR8_RxifMwL4JQTxYclMANzga67VBlyhj&index=11) , designed especially for journalists to learn how to find, download and interpret our data.
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